

Serial No. 09/097,221

35 for a composite material and a load bearing structure. Applicant confirms the provisional election made August 30, 1999 to prosecute the invention of Group I, with traverse. The Examiner indicated that the composite of Group II could be made alternatively by sequential coating/laminating operations, citing MPEP 806.05(f). Under that section, a product defined by the process by which it can be made can be restricted from the process if the examiner can demonstrate that the product as claimed can be made by another materially different process. If Applicant convincingly traverses the requirement, the burden shifts to the Examiner to document a viable alternative process, or withdraw the restriction requirement.

→ Applicant traverses the restriction requirement on the grounds that a composite formed by sequential coating/laminating operations would not have the same interphasing as is recited in Claim 16, because the interphasing is a result of the step of "impregnating a face of a sheet of semi-rigid thermoplastic material with a reactive resin that chemically bonds with a curing agent" as is now more clearly set forth in Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that a mere sequential coating or lamination operation would not achieve the same interphasing as is recited in Claim 16. It is further respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not described a sequential coating or lamination operation that would achieve the same interphasing as is recited in Claim 16. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner should document a viable alternative process that would achieve the same interphasing as is recited in Claim 16, or that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected as indefinite. Claim 8 has been rewritten as Claim 41 to clarify that it pertains to the chemical nature of the resin, and the subject matter of Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claims 1-12, 14 and 15 were rejected as obvious from Offill, Livingston, and Rosemund et al. Claim 1 has been rewritten as Claim 36 to clarify the step of "impregnating a face of a sheet of semi-rigid thermoplastic material with a reactive resin that chemically bonds with a curing agent." Offill discloses inserting a carrier between a conduit substrate surface and a liner, but does not teach forming a chemical bond between the carrier and the liner, or impregnating the liner with a reactive resin, as is claimed. Livingston discloses forming a chemical bond between a polymeric material and a polymer on the exterior surface of a tubular liner, but the surface of the tubular liner is not disclosed as being impregnated with such a polymer as is claimed. Rosemund et al. relates to polyurethane foam compositions, but does not disclose impregnating a liner with a reactive resin, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 36-46 should be allowable over Offill, Livingston, and Rosemund et al.

Claim 13, now rewritten as Claim 44, was rejected as obvious from Offill, Livingston, Rosemund et al. and Ranney et al., disclosing silane primers blended with urethane sealants. However, it is respectfully submitted that Ranney et al. also does not teach impregnating the liner with a reactive resin, as is claimed, and that Claim 44 should also now be allowable.

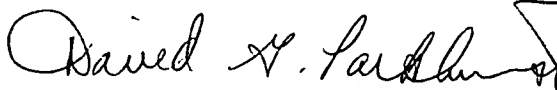
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A notice of objections to the drawings accompanied the Office Action, and Applicant proposes to submit corrected formal drawings as required as soon as an indication of allowability is received, if not earlier.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in a condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David G. Parkhurst", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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